

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2012 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany for ten days from May 18–27 of this year. During this ten day exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat Members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for ten days April 14–22 of this year. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two staffers in their Member's district in April, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HC–4, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2012.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM LE'RON JACKSON FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. William Le'Ron Jackson. Mr. Jackson is a lifelong resident of Byram, Mississippi. He is the son of Mrs. Hollia Smith-Thompson, Henry Thompson, Jr., and Mr. William Smith. He is a graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Mr. Jackson is aspiring to obtain a law degree with an emphasis on Disability and Common law.

Mr. Jackson has been involved in numerous volunteer activities throughout the years. He is a dynamic role model who mentors people with and without disabilities throughout the state on the values of education and self-advocacy. Mr. Jackson has worked for Living Independence for Everyone, LIFE, of Mississippi and a children's medical program under the Mississippi Department of Health. He has also served as an AmeriCorps Volunteer. Mr. Jackson always finds time to give back to his community by giving statewide presentations and serving on various committees, such as the My Voice My Choice Board of Directors, Healthy Opportunities for Transition Advisory Council, Teen Empowerment Success Training Council, and the National Youth Leadership Network.

During 2010, Mr. Jackson expanded his volunteer service by beginning a three-year term as a Member of the Board of Directors for Disability Rights Mississippi, a non-profit agency that provides protection and advocacy services to people with disabilities statewide.

Mr. Jackson recently was selected in March 2011, to be a part of a committee, formed with the assistance of the Commissioner of the United States Administration on Development Disabilities, ADD, and other national self-advocacy organizations, to focus on improving self-advocacy throughout the state of Mississippi.

During April 2011, Mr. Jackson was awarded the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence, GIVE, Award, which is presented by

the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service in cooperation with the Office of the Governor to recognize individuals, organizations, or communities for volunteer efforts which have made a significant difference to the state or to local communities, establishing high standards for volunteer involvement and effectiveness, and multiplying resources for communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jackson for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

MEMORIES OF DAVID KATZ

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Sam Katz. Mr. Katz asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD in remembrance of his father, David Katz. Mr. Katz's statement follows:

Today, we mourn the loss of a great man; a man who to us was simply known and loved as, "Daddy."

Daddy was first and foremost a loving, caring, and dedicated husband for nearly 59 years to the wonderful lady we simply know and love as, "Mommy." Daddy's love and support for Mommy is something every man should learn from.

We could not have asked for a more loving and dedicated father. Always a father, he was also our mentor, teacher, and when necessary, a friend. We were deeply blessed with a very peaceful and loving family life with two wonderful parents. We always believed our parents' love for each other was strong. However, throughout Daddy's illnesses this past year, it became beautifully and painfully clear that their marriage was sustained by true and genuine love. There were times in the hospital and in care facilities when Mommy would go to extremes just to give Daddy a kiss because it meant so much to her, and for as long as we can remember, Mommy was the glimmer in Daddy's eyes. This was not a marriage that lasted out of convenience or for the sake of their four children. This beautiful and long marriage endured better, worse, richer, poorer, sickness and health, and was still parted only by death.

We never heard a cross word spoken between Mommy and Daddy, and never even heard them call each other by their first names. Everyone should be so fortunate!

Growing up was a lot of fun. We went on regular summer vacations. Daddy traveled quite a bit and at times, would take one or more of us with him on the road. We traveled to family Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and spent as much time as possible together as a family.

Family dinners were very important to Daddy. We would wait for him to come home from work and the entire family would have dinner together and talk about our day. We spent evenings together watching our 19" black and white TV in the family room—the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.